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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/733,295

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Shinji Ohnishi

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EXAMINER

LIU, LIN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2145

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/733,295	Applicant(s) OHNISHI, SHINJI	
	Examiner LIN LIU	Art Unit 2145	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 January 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/22/2008 & 2/19/2008</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is responsive to communications filed on 1/29/2008.
2. Claims 1 to 6 have been cancelled and claims 7 to 18 are pending and have been examined.
3. The information disclosure statement (I.D.S) filed on 01/22/2008 and 02/19/2008 are considered.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

4. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/29/2008 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 7-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Comp (PGPUB: US 2004/0203698 A1).

With respect to **claim 7**, Comp teaches a communication apparatus capable of connecting to a network including a plurality of transmission media and capable of controlling a controlled device having a predetermined function, comprising:

a device detecting unit that (a) detects the controlled device among a plurality of devices connected to the network (Comp: fig. 1 & 3, page 1, paragraphs 8-9, noted the WAP 14), and (b) obtains an IP address of the controlled device (Comp: fig. 1 & 3, page 1, paragraph 9, noted that it's an inherent feature for WAP to have the IP address of the user devices 16, 18, or 20);

a communication unit that transmits a request for inquiring whether a device having the obtained IP address is connected to a predetermined transmission medium, the communication apparatus being directly connected to the predetermined transmission medium (Comp: fig. 3, page 3, paragraphs 19-20, noted the controller 48); and

a determining unit that (a) determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are connected via the predetermined transmission medium (Comp: fig. 3, page 3, paragraphs 19-21, noted that the controller 48 within the access point 30 delivers signal strength messages to the user device to indicate that they are connected), if a response corresponding to the request is received, and (b) determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are connected via a transmission medium different from the predetermined transmission medium (Comp: page 3, paragraph 21, noted that when the signal strength falls below certain threshold, this would indicate that the connection may have been lost. This implies at

least in part that they are not connected via same transmission medium), if the response corresponding to the request is not received,

wherein the communication apparatus provides warning information if the determining unit determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are connected via the transmission medium different from the predetermined transmission medium (Comp: fig. 3, page 3, paragraphs 21-22 and page 4, paragraph 25, noted that the WAP provides and displays notification to the user device).

With respect to **claim 8**, Comp teaches the communication apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the communication apparatus provides and instructs a warning information to the user device (Comp: page 4, paragraph 25), but Comp fails to teach a method of displaying the warning information on a display unit of the communication apparatus.

However, Comp in another embodiment, he teaches displaying the warning information on a display unit of the user device (Comp: page 3, paragraph 21, noted the LED indicators of the user device).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention modify Comp's invention by integrating the LED indicators taught in one embodiment with WAP from another embodiment to display the warning information. The motivation to modify such invention is to not only display the warning information in the signal-receiving side, e.g. user device, but also to display the signal strength level emitted by the WAP to the users, so that the users can be notified if the WAP is malfunctioning.

With respect to **claim 9**, Comp teaches communication apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the communication apparatus displays the warning information on a display unit of an external device (Comp: fig. 3, page 3, paragraphs 21-22 and page 4, paragraph 25, noted that the WAP provides and displays notification to the user device).

With respect to **claim 10**, Comp teaches the communication apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the device detecting unit uses UPnP (Universal Plug and Play) to detect the controlled device and to obtain the IP address of the controlled device (Comp: fig. 1, page 1, paragraph 9, noted the wireless technologies).

Regarding **claims 11-18**, the limitations of these claims are substantially the same as those in claims 7-10. Therefore the same rationale for rejecting claims 7-10 are used to reject claims 11-18. By this rationale **claims 11-18** are rejected.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 7-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- Cheng (PGPUB: US 2002/0078161 A1) discloses an UPnP enabling device for heterogeneous networks of slave devices.

- Ayyagari et al. (PGPUB: US 2001/0033554 A1) discloses a method of proxy-bridge connecting remote users to a limited connectivity network.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lin Liu whose telephone number is (571) 270-1447.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:30am - 5:00pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on (571) 272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/L. L./
/Lin Liu/

Examiner, Art Unit 2145

/Jason D Cardone/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2145